



St. Thomas More School

Admissions Policy

2022/2023 School Year



Criteria for Admission

St. Thomas More is a Roman Catholic school and has, as its primary purpose, religious formation in a Christian environment, integrating religious truths and values with every aspect of human life. This integration begins in the home and is further developed in school. The decision to choose Catholic education for a child places upon parents the responsibility to accept the religious values upon which the St. Thomas More School educational system is founded, and further obligates them to share those values and responsibilities with their children.

St. Thomas More is operated under the auspices of the Roman Catholic Bishop of Gary. St. Thomas More School does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, or national and ethnic origin in the administration of educational policies, athletic, or other school-administered programs or admissions.

St. Thomas More School participates in the IN School Choice Program.

Non-Catholics

Non-Catholics are welcome at St. Thomas More School. As a Roman Catholic School, we exist first and foremost to promote the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church. Although we welcome non-Catholics, **only 15% of our enrollment per grade will be comprised of non-Catholic children.** No student is required to become a baptized Catholic or to participate in the Sacraments, however, students are expected to participate in religious instruction, attend Mass and other prayer services with their class.

Age Requirements

- ◆ Children entering Preschool must be three years old on or before September 1st, toilet trained and out of any type of diaper or pull-up.
- ◆ Children entering Pre-Kindergarten must be four years of age on or before September 1st.
- ◆ Children entering Kindergarten must be five years of age on or before September 1st.
- ◆ Incoming Kindergarten students must successfully complete Kindergarten Readiness Screening.
- ◆ Children entering first grade must be six years of age on or before September 1st. At the discretion of the Principal and/or Director of Student Special Services, an exception may be made for a student who has completed a full year of Kindergarten as a resident of another state in a public or private school.
- ◆ Admission of students to other grades will involve consideration of both chronological age and ability to successfully complete the work in those grades. The Principal and/or Director of Student Services have the authority to determine the placement of all students. Prior student records, an STMS placement exam, if needed, and interview will be part of the decision process.

Admission Priority

For an Upcoming School Year

Registration for the 2022/2023 school year begins on January 30, 2022. Registrations are taken in the order received and, in most cases, will be capped at 24 students per classroom unless reduced due to COVID measures. When maximum enrollment has been reached, a waiting list will be maintained for each grade. It is important to complete and submit your Online Application (OA) as soon as possible. From once an OA is started, parents have 30 days in which to complete the application process. A student body ratio of no more than 15% per grade of non-Catholic students will be maintained at all times. Once we reach 15% non-Catholic, new applications will be taken in the order received and held until February 28, 2022, when current non-Catholic families have registered for the following school year. At that time we will begin to fill remaining spots from the non-Catholic applications. Applications received on or before February 28, 2022 will be eligible for a \$50 registration fee discount.

Admission Rules

For a School Year Already in Progress

Children who have moved into the area are admitted any time during the school year, pending review of report cards, standardized test scores and the STMS placement exam. Children with special circumstances may be admitted at the discretion of the Principal after review of report cards, standardized test scores, placement exam, behavioral history from previous school(n and an interview.

Other Requirements for New Families

Go to www.stm-school.com to start the Online Application (OA) process.

1. Please complete the online forms in full and submit the following:
 - Birth Certificate
 - Baptismal Certificate, if applicable
 - Current & 2 years of past Report Cards (required for 1st-8th grade Applicants)
 - Standardized Test Scores for Current & Past Year(s), if applicable
 - NWEA Test Results for students in grades 1-8 may eliminate the STMS pre-acceptance Placement Exam.
 - IREAD 3 Test Results, required for 4th grade applicants coming from an Indiana school
 - Home Language Survey (IN residents: transfer from previous school)
 - Custodial Documentation, if applicable
 - Up-to-Date Immunization Records (after admissions)
 - Physical & Eye Exam required for all incoming Kindergarten students dated after May 1st and due by August 1st (after admissions)
2. Complete a Placement Exam if NWEA/MAP results are not available (required for 1st-8th grade applicants). You will be notified of the scheduled times.
3. Attend a New Family Information Session. You will receive dates and details in advance early Summer.
4. Kindergarteners must sign up for the Kindergarten Readiness Evaluation.
5. Schedule a Parent/Student Interview with St. Thomas More School Administration prior to June 1st. This is required for all new applicants.
6. Students of all grade levels will need at home devices with keyboards and internet connection.